WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for selectively persisting a manual activity performed by a user of a

2   workflow system, the manual activity being a work step performed by the user and associated

3   with a specific record, the method comprising:

4   selectively determining whether the manual activity associated with the specific

5   record is to be persisted; and

6   selectively persisting the manual activity in the event that the manual activity is to

7   be persisted, the persisting comprising adding a persisted activity record to a persisted

8   activity database.

1   2.   The method of Claim 1, the method further comprising:

2   displaying the specific record;

3   selectively determining whether to perform a manual action associated with the

4   specific record or to perform a persisted action associated with the specific record;

5   selectively performing the manual action associated with the specific record in the

6   event that the manual action should be performed; and

7   selectively performing the persisted action associated with the specific record in

8   the event that the persisted action should be performed.

1   3.   The method of Claim 2 wherein the specific record is displayed when the specific

2   record does not conform to a business logic rule.

1   4.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the persisted activity record is associated with the

2   specific record.

1   5.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the persisted activity record is associated with a

2   business logic rule.

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1   6.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the persisted activity record comprises

2   instructions for replay of the manual activity.

1   7.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the specific record is contained in a new version

2   of a recognized file.

1   8.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the specific record is acquired from a supplier.

1   9.   The method of Claim 1, the method further comprising:

2   subsequently storing the specific record in an electronic catalog.

1   10.   A method for automatically performing a persisted activity in a workflow process,

2   the persisted activity associated with a persisted activity record, the persisted activity record

3   associated with an individual content record, the method comprising:

4   identifying the individual content record;

5   determining whether the persisted activity record associated with the individual

6   content record exists; and

7   selectively performing the persisted activity associated with the persisted activity

8   record on the individual record.

1   11.   The method of Claim 10, the method further comprising:

2   determining whether the individual content record conforms to a business

3   logic rule.

1   12.   A content management workflow system operable to automatically adjust at least

2   one content field of at least one content record, the content management workflow system

3   operable to load the at least one content record into a catalog database, the content management

4   workflow system comprising:

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5   an automated workflow manager operable to selectively direct the at least one

6   content record to at least one step in a workflow process using at least one business logic

7   rule;

8   a persisted activity database operable to store at least one persisted activity

9   associated with the at least one content record;

10   the persisted activity database in communication with the automated workflow

11   manager, the automated workflow manager operable to selectively replay the at least one

12   persisted activity stored in the persisted activity database;

13   a content editor operable to adjust the at least one content field of the at least one

14   content record.

1   13.   The content management workflow system of Claim 12, the content management

2   workflow system further comprising:

3   at least one user interface coupled to the automated workflow manager, the at

4   least one user interface operable to permit at least one manual activity associated with the

5   at least one content record.

1   14.   The content management workflow system of Claim 13, the content management

2   workflow system further comprising:

3   a manual activity observer in communication with the at least one user interface,

4   the manual activity observer operable to observe the at least one manual activity, suggest

5   at least one persisted manual activity operable for replay of the at least one manual

6   activity, and load the at least one persisted manual activity into the persisted activity

7   database, the at least one persisted manual activity associated with the at least one content

8   record.

1   15.   The content management workflow system of Claim 14 wherein the manual

2   activity observer creates instructions operable to replay the at least one manual activity.

1   16.   The content management workflow system of Claim 14 wherein the at least one

2   persisted manual activity becomes a persisted activity upon storage in the persisted activity

3   database.

1   17.   The content management workflow system of Claim 12, the content management

2   workflow system further comprising:

3   a persisted activity editor coupled to the persisted activity database, the persisted

4   activity editor operable to permit viewing and editing of the at least one persisted activity.

1   18.   The content management workflow system of Claim 12 wherein the content

2   editor is operable to adjust the at least one content field of the at least one content record such

3   that the at least one content record conforms to a business logic rule.

1   19.   The content management workflow system of Claim 12 wherein a document is

2   altered in a manner associated with the at least one content record.

3   20.   A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program

4   of instructions executable by the machine to perform methods steps for automatically persisting a

5   manual activity, said method steps comprising:

6   selectively determining whether an action on a specific record is to be persisted; and

7   selectively persisting the action on the specific record in the event that the action is to be

8   persisted, the persisting comprising adding a persisted activity record to a persisted

9   activity database.